



Frazer OPI Team - Planning for Improvement March 2011

Think of the change process as a traveling canoe, and your decisions and actions as the paddle. You will get where you are going one stroke at a time with the decisions and actions you make. - DJ Vanas

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Transformation News--- Jennifer

Cunningham: CRT Testing dates are as follows: Math and Reading will be March 8, 9, and 10 with two tests occurring each day in the morning. On March 15, grades 4, 8, and 10 will receive two science tests in the morning. On March 16th, the same groups will receive one test. Training for staff occurred on February 24th to assist in preparing students with testing format and test-taking procedures. All make-up tests will be in the afternoon on testing and non-testing days with all testing completed by March 16th.

The independent evaluator has been conducting pre-observations/evaluations for certified staff as of March 1st. My role is to support administration with establishing a detailed schedule outlining pre-observation conference times, classroom observation times, etc. As an OPI official, I will be present during all certified pre-observation and post-observation conferences to ensure the process will be followed and carried out with validity. The SOPPAS manuals have been distributed to all certified staff, along with all forms detailed in the manual. Training for teachers on SOPPAS occurred on January 17th and February 17th during morning collaboration.

On February 28-March 2, I attended a conference in Billings with LaRae concerning board policies and all school handbooks. Next steps will be establishing handbooks for staff and students that are aligned with school board policies.

Instructional News – Carolyn Rusche:

Communication Arts: Attended several meetings with communication arts teachers to assess the student's progress and placement in the correct program.

Jennifer Cunningham, jcunningham@mt.gov,
Carolyn Rusche, crusche@mt.gov,
LaRae Crowley, lcrowley2@mt.gov,
James DeHerrera, jdeherrera@mt.gov

- Completed three coaching cycles with Corrective Reading teachers. Observed two English classes. Observed one elementary reading class.
- Frances Bessellieu, Side by Side consultant, rescheduled site visit due to weather and will be in Frazer on March 22nd and 23rd to provide additional support for teachers. Coaching will continue throughout the year.

Math: Reviewed quarterly assessments and Cognitive Tutor implementation with the math teacher.

- Algebraic Thinking trainer/coach Roy Shelton, Jr. is scheduled to visit Frazer on March 3rd. He will provide remote coaching with the math teachers March 17th and 18th. Coaching will continue throughout the year.

Activities:

- Nancy Coleman will be here on March 4th.
- Attended meetings with the Superintendent, Transformational Leader (TL), Community Liaison (CL) and School Board Coach.
- Met with MBI representatives Kevin Murphy and Greg Thurlow on March 22nd.
- Attended three MBI committee meetings.
- Attended the SIG team meeting on February 16th, next meeting will be March 7th.

The next steps for curriculum and instructional improvement:

- Assist with CRT assessments.
- Continue to provide support for all teachers focusing on communication arts and math teachers.
- Monitor student progress.
- Schedule ITV teacher sessions for science, math, and communication arts.

Phone: 406-438-1775

Phone: 406-650-7679

Phone: 406-438-5678

Phone: 406-461-9451

School Board Involvement --- LaRae

Crowley: February activities have revolved around updating policies that are required and recommended by MTBA. These are policies that are due to legal issues and revisions to Frazer curriculum changes. First reading on five policies were on the February agenda and second readings and more will follow into March. Trustee Election was called for in May and Frazer will have two positions open. Please remind anyone that has expressed interest to contact the clerk for more information on becoming a candidate. This is a time commitment for a community member and also a time to become involved with the future of the youth of the community. We as school board coaches and instructional leaders attended training on Feb. 28-March 1, 2011. Hopefully, we will be able to share our knowledge and resources with you. Finance training will be in Malta on March 7, 2011. Board members will be attending Board Retreat on March 19, 2011.

School Community News – James

DeHerrera: This month has been very productive. I have worked with Ms. Chiller and Ms. Cox for final preparations for the grants they were awarded for afterschool programs. Both teachers have started with implementation of these afterschool programs. Ms. Chiller's afterschool program is called "Express to Speak." Her program teaches students to express their feelings and thoughts through poetry. This program is centered on spoken word, verbal performance, and public speaking. Ms. Cox has her students learning and developing social skills, leadership, self-esteem, and investigating and talking about teen living. This program will help students develop skills needed for living now, throughout their teen years, and for the rest of their life.

I attended MBI training in Billings with the Frazer MBI team. Frazer MBI team was so focused on all information discussed. They went over "The Team Implementation Checklist"

Jennifer Cunningham, jcunningham@mt.gov,
Carolyn Rusche, crusche@mt.gov,
LaRae Crowley, lcrowley2@mt.gov,
James DeHerrera, jdeherrera@mt.gov

which is designed as a "progress monitoring" tool for school teams implementing MBI. They discussed the MBI self-assessment to ask such questions as what kinds of progress so far and action plan goals. The team was given time to work on their action plan. I felt that our MBI team was so focused and got a lot accomplished on their action. They worked as a team! I have attended all MBI team meetings.

I worked with Larry Parker to get some students to FPCC College/Career Fair. While at the event, I was able to talk with Rhonda Mason who is the admission specialist. We are going to set a time for her and FPCC to give placement tests at Frazer High School. This would give Frazer students a chance to experience a college test and also help the college find a place for our students. I have spoken with Josh Sloan from Student Assistance Foundation and we will set a time for him to come to Frazer to provide our students and parents training on filling out the FAFSA application.

Mr. Newman and I prepared the student council for viewing Montana State Superintendent Denise Juneau's "State of Education Address." Our Government teacher was on board and had his class which was seniors, report to Mr. Newman's class for this event. We had no video but were able to listen to the audio of this event. The students were especially excited when Superintendent Denise Juneau recognized Frazer's participation and also spoke to the students asking them to do well and strive for a better education.

I have also been working closely with Frazer staff and also OPI onsite staff in preparation for the SOPPAS training and CRT testing. With the help of Mary Sue Fear, we have distributed info to the community on the CRT testing.

We were able to have a Science fair, Book fair, and an art show. I would like to recognize Mr. Newman and the Science students for their success in the Science fair. I was asked to judge this event and it was very exciting!

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From the Helena Office -- Nancy Coleman, SIG Unit Director:

Grant Requirements for March and April:

For the board's information we are providing a listing of things that need to be accomplished at various levels. Much of the work is a continuation from the previous month:

For the on-site OPI employees:

- Support the state tests which are slated for March;
- Utilize the checklist developed to ensure the processes required for SOPPAS are followed;
- Begin to gather tools to help staff develop a process to revise and update class schedules, the school calendar and various handbooks for the districts which will include community and student involvement in this process;
- Continue to work to foster shared leadership in the implementation of the District Action Plan (DAP) bringing all voices to the table;
- Continue work with SIG District Leadership Team (DLT) to establish processes and procedures to monitor and implement the District Action Plans details;
- Continue to assist with organizing the collaborative Professional Learning Communities (PLCs);
- Continue to support actions steps within the Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI);
- Begin to work with local staff to determine a protocol for scheduled external professional development providers; and
- Continue to provide job-embedded professional development through training and coaching for all staff.

For the Principal:

- Develop and implement an evaluation schedule for the 3rd party evaluator;
- Assume the required role as established by the SOPPAS evaluation process;
- Monitor the assessment plan – protocol developed and plan discussions with staff

and students on how to improve the process for next year;

- Continue to attend School Improvement Team meeting(s); coordinate professional development of the PLCs which should include calendars – teaching/class schedules and handbook revisions for board review by April;
- Continue to lead, along with the MBI facilitator, action steps within the MBI;
- Continue to assess progress on the work of SIG DLT to start planning for next year;
- Continue to monitor a system to determine ‘at risk’ students based on – attendance, past class grades, discipline, support systems for success (student information system); and
- Put a plan in place that will accurately gather the required reporting data for grant compliance.

For the District/Superintendent:

- Begin the evaluation process for principals through the SOPPAS process;
- Continue to support the implementation of the DAP through resources, etc.; and
- Continue to participate in the finance calls that are provided by the OPI once a month.

For teachers:

- Actively participate in the SOPPAS evaluation process;
- Actively participate in the collaborative PLCs;
- Continue to plan and implement lesson plans that include standards alignment with ongoing assessments;
- Continue to implement the programs for communication arts and mathematics with fidelity; and
- Continue to actively participate in school improvement teams which you are involved with.

Nancy Coleman, ncoleman@mt.gov, Phone: 444-3551 Cell: 438-1942

Statewide Youth and Community

Outreach – Don Wetzel, Jr.: This month the

Calli Rusche-Nicholson CNicholson@mt.gov,
Stevie Schmitz, SSchmitz@mt.gov,
David Stringfield, DStringfield@mt.gov,
Savannah Siquah, ssiquah@mt.gov

Phone: 406-256-0460 Pryor Office
Phone: 406-690-4722 Evening Phone
Phone: 406-256-0460 Pryor Office
Phone: 406-855-9401 Cell Phone

schools made great strides in implementing youth initiatives that included afterschool programs and clubs. Rodeo, drama and poetry clubs have been developed and student lounges are becoming a reality in our schools with support coming from parents, teachers and school boards. These incentive-driven programs will provide positive rewards for youth that improve attendance and grades. I was able to sit down and visit with many teachers and staff members at each of our SIG schools and explain our community and youth-driven work and to also discuss ways to improve our communications around the youth. It is exciting to have these discussions!

The CL's big focus for this first year has been to develop relationships with the Youth, Elders (Culture), Community programs, and Parents and Families. This is a long process, but it is exciting to see how it has progressed at each of our SIG schools. Culture and identity are brought up often when discussing our plans for the community and schools. We have the privilege to work with the strongest and most resilient Tribal Nations in these schools and want to bring those historic strengths to the forefront and help in developing success. In two of our schools we have begun the Home Visiting Project (<http://www.pthvp.org/>) that is bringing great benefits to parents and the school. Schools staff are invited by the community liaisons to make visits to parents with the first visit focused on simply the hopes and dreams of our students. Let's continue this positive trend and work together to keep all of our students' hopes and dreams at the center of our work. Donnie Wetzel, dwetzel2@mt.gov, Phone: 281-5092 Cell: 438-1733

The SIG Web site is now live at:
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/Promise/index.html>

Jennifer Cunningham, jcunningham@mt.gov,
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